

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A composition comprising ribavirin and the nucleic acid of SEQ. ID. NO.: 16.
2. A composition comprising ribavirin and the peptide of SEQ. ID. NO.: 17.
3. A composition comprising ribavirin and the nucleic acid of SEQ. ID. NO.: 13 or a fragment thereof at least 18 consecutive nucleotides in length.
4. A composition comprising ribavirin and the peptide of SEQ. ID. NO.: 1 or a fragment thereof at least 6 consecutive amino acids in length.
5. A composition comprising ribavirin and an antigen.
6. The composition of Claim 5, wherein said antigen is a nucleic acid.
7. The composition of Claim 5, wherein said antigen is a peptide.
8. The composition of Claim 6, wherein said nucleic acid is derived from a virus selected from the group consisting of hepatitis A virus (HAV), hepatitis B virus (HBV), and hepatitis C virus (HCV).
9. The composition of Claim 7, wherein said peptide is derived from a virus selected from the group consisting of hepatitis A virus (HAV), hepatitis B virus (HBV), and hepatitis C virus (HCV).
10. The composition of Claim 5, wherein said antigen is a nucleic acid or a peptide corresponding to an antigen selected from the group consisting of hepatitis B surface antigen (HBsAg), hepatitis core antigen (HBcAg), and hepatitis E antigen (HBeAg).
11. The composition of Claim 7, wherein said peptide comprises at least three consecutive amino acids of a sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ. ID. NOs.: 1-12.
12. The composition of Claim 6, wherein said nucleic acid comprises at least 9 consecutive nucleotides of a sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ. ID. NOs.: 13-15.
13. A method of enhancing an immune response to a hepatitis C antigen comprising:

identifying an animal in need of an enhanced immune response to a hepatitis C antigen; and

providing to said animal a composition comprising ribavirin and the nucleic acid of SEQ. ID. NO.: 16.

5           14.    A method of enhancing an immune response to a hepatitis C antigen comprising:

                  identifying an animal in need of an enhanced immune response to a hepatitis C antigen; and

                  providing to said animal a composition comprising ribavirin and the peptide of SEQ. ID. NO.: 17.

10           15.    A method of enhancing an immune response to a hepatitis C antigen comprising:

                  identifying an animal in need of an enhanced immune response to a hepatitis C antigen; and

15                   providing to said animal a composition comprising ribavirin and the nucleic acid of SEQ. ID. NO.: 13 or a fragment thereof at least 18 consecutive nucleotides in length.

                  16.    A method of enhancing an immune response to a hepatitis C antigen comprising:

20                   identifying an animal in need of an enhanced immune response to a hepatitis C antigen; and

                  providing to said animal a composition comprising ribavirin and the peptide of SEQ. ID. NO.: 1 or a fragment thereof at least 6 consecutive amino acids in length.

25           17.    A method of making a vaccine comprising:

                  providing ribavirin;

                  providing the nucleic acid of SEQ. ID. NO.: 16; and

                  mixing said ribavirin and said nucleic acid so as to formulate said vaccine.

30           18.    A method of making a vaccine comprising:

                  providing ribavirin;

providing the peptide of SEQ. ID. NO.: 17; and  
mixing said ribavirin and said peptide so as to formulate said vaccine.

19. A method of making a vaccine comprising:

providing ribavirin;

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providing the nucleic acid of SEQ. ID. NO.: 13 or a fragment thereof at least at least 18 consecutive nucleotides in length; and

mixing said ribavirin and said nucleic acid so as to formulate said vaccine.

20. A method of making a vaccine comprising:

providing ribavirin;

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providing the nucleic acid of SEQ. ID. NO.: 1 or a fragment thereof at least 6 consecutive amino acids in length; and

mixing said ribavirin and said nucleic acid so as to formulate said vaccine.

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